

REMARKS

This paper is an amendment that accompanies a request for continued examination (RCE). It is respectfully requested that prosecution on the merits be re-opened for the present application.

Claims 10, 12-18, 20-43 and 45-51 are pending and rejected.

The Office Action at page 2 objects to certain claims. Applicants have amended certain claim to traverse the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

To expedite prosecution and/or to further clarify the recited subject matter, Applicants have amended each pending independent claim.

It is respectfully requested that all of the pending claims be reconsidered for patentability.

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue, without prejudice, subject matter that has been withdrawn, amended and/or cancelled in a continuing application, for example.

With respect to the present application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the alleged prior art that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should a disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in the present application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

U.S. Application No. 10/692,959, filed October 24, 2003
Attorney Docket No. 14407US02
Amendment dated June 9, 2011
Accompanying RCE filed June 9, 2011

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Date: June 9, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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